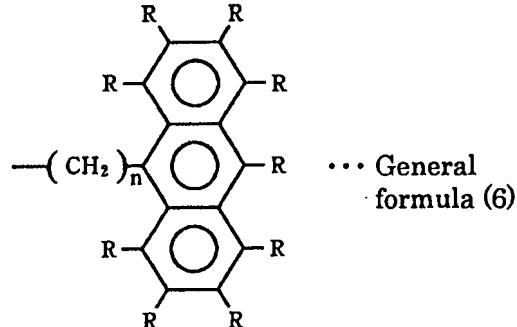
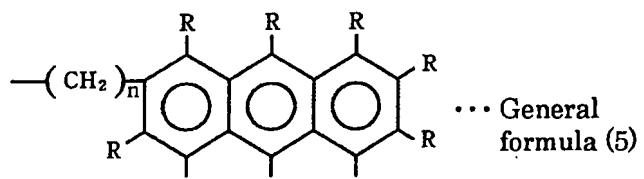
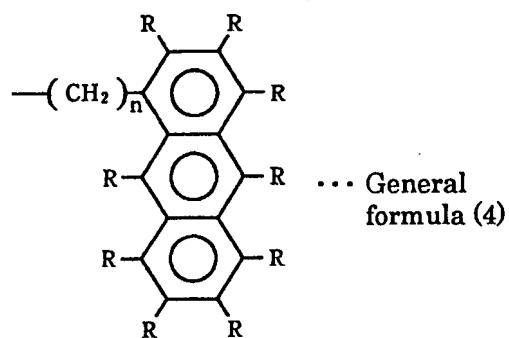
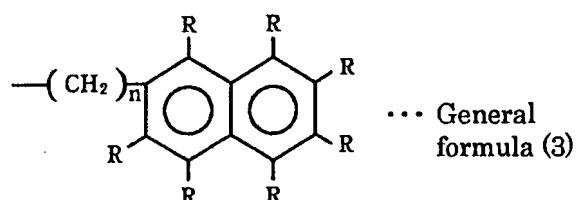
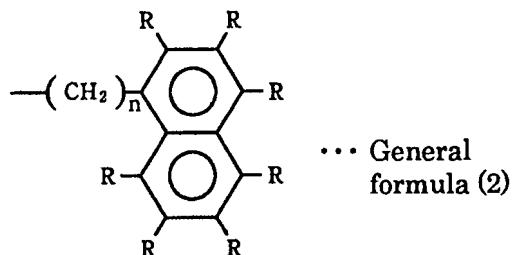
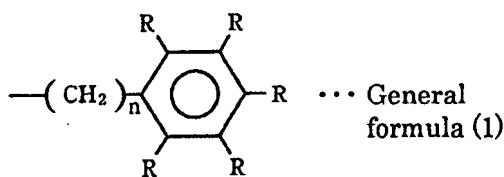


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (withdrawn) An allergen inhibitor comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of an aromatic hydroxy compound, an alkali metal carbonate, alum, lauryl benzene sulfonate, lauryl sulfate, polyoxyethylene lauryl ether sulfate, and a divalent or more sulfate having either or both of a polyoxyethylene chain and a polyethylene chain in the molecule thereof.

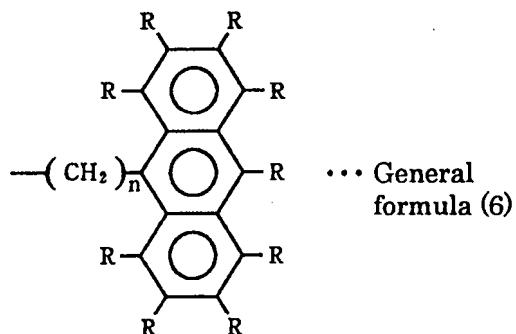
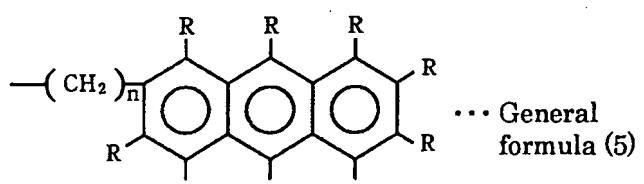
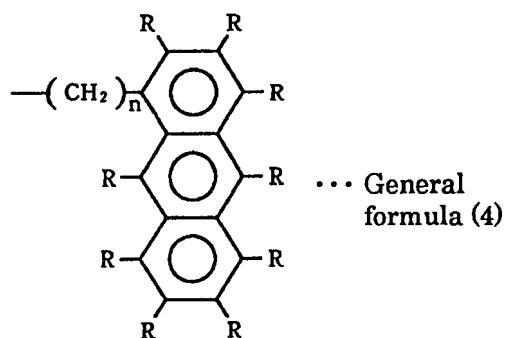
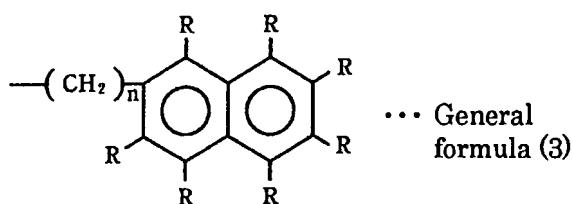
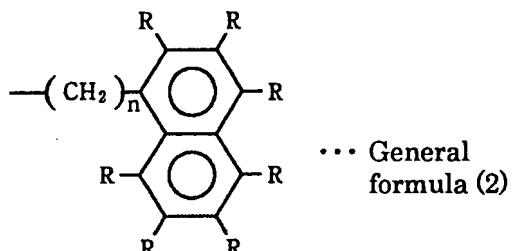
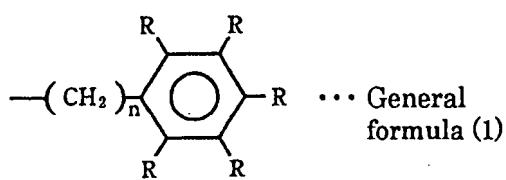
2. (withdrawn) The allergen inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic hydroxy compound is a compound having, in a linear polymer, at least one of substituent groups represented by the general formulas (1) to (6):



wherein R is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group, and at least one R is a hydroxyl group, and n is an integer of 0 to 5.

3. (withdrawn) The allergen inhibitor according to claim 2, wherein only one of the substituent groups R is a hydroxyl group, and all the other substituent groups R are hydrogen atoms.

4. (withdrawn) The allergen inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic hydroxy compound is obtained by polymerizing or copolymerizing a monomer having at least one of substituent groups represented by the general formulas (1) to (6):



wherein R is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group, and at least one R is a hydroxyl group, and n is an integer of 0 to 5.

5. (withdrawn) The allergen inhibitor according to claim 4, wherein only one of the substituent groups R is a hydroxyl group, and all the other substituent groups R are hydrogen atoms.

6. (withdrawn) The allergen inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic hydroxy compound is an aromatic heterocyclic hydroxy compound.

7. (withdrawn) The allergen inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the divalent or more sulfate having either or both of a polyoxyethylene chain and a polyethylene chain in the molecule thereof is alkyl diphenyl ether disulfonate.

8. (withdrawn) An allergen inhibitor comprising a phosphate and either or both of zinc sulfate and lead acetate.

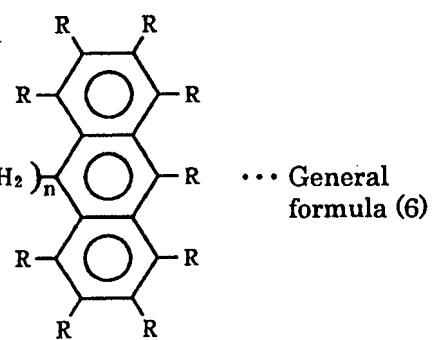
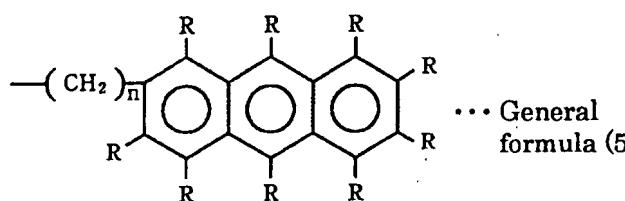
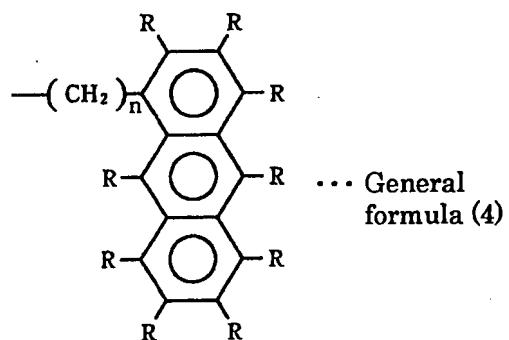
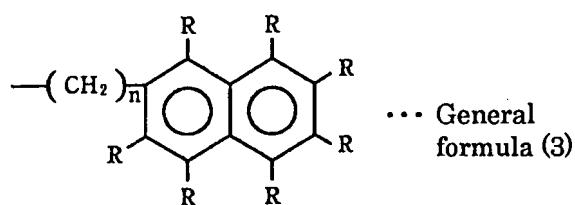
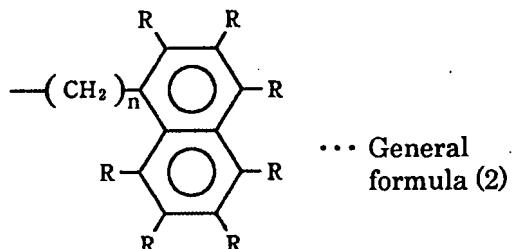
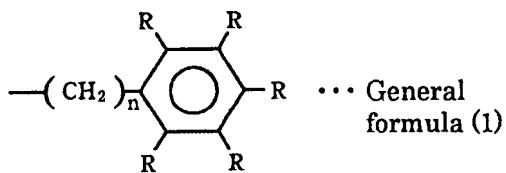
9. (withdrawn) An allergen inhibitor comprising an aqueous solution containing aluminum sulfate and at least one sulfate selected from the group consisting of sodium sulfate, potassium sulfate, ammonium sulfate and thallium sulfate.

10. (withdrawn) The allergen inhibitor according to claim 9,

which comprises sodium sulfate and aluminum sulfate, wherein the total concentration of sodium sulfate and aluminum sulfate is 0.5 to 50% by weight.

11. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting allergens which comprises supplying at least one compound selected from the group consisting of an aromatic hydroxy compound, an alkali metal carbonate, alum, lauryl benzene sulfonate, lauryl sulfate, polyoxyethylene lauryl ether sulfate, and a divalent or more sulfate having either or both of a polyoxyethylene chain and a polyethylene chain in the molecule thereof, in an object where allergens exist to inhibit the reactivity of allergens to specific antibodies by denaturing or adsorbing allergens.

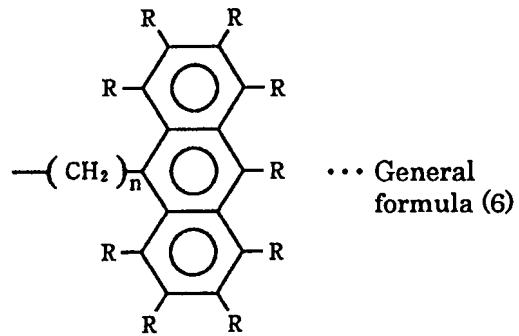
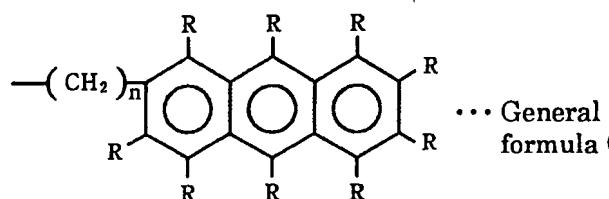
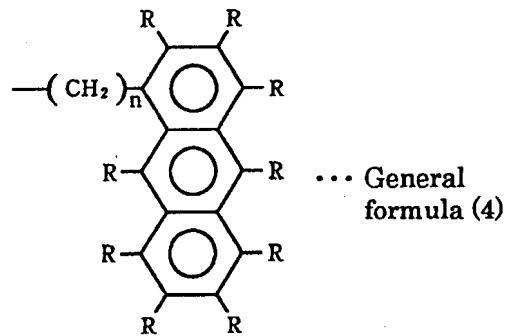
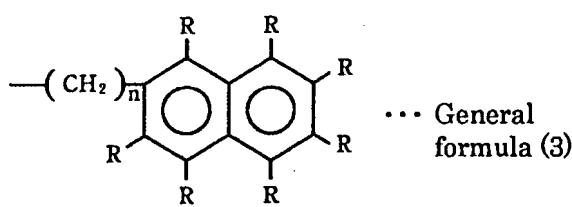
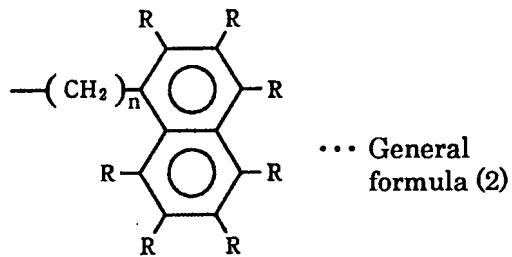
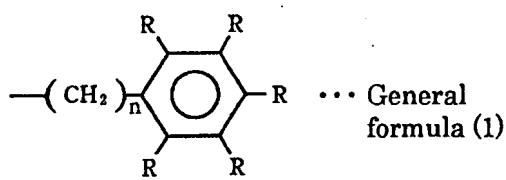
12. (original) The method of inhibiting allergens according to claim 11, wherein the aromatic hydroxy compound is a compound having, in a linear polymer, at least one of substituent groups represented by the general formulas (1) to (6):



wherein R is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group, and at least one R is a hydroxyl group, and n is an integer of 0 to 5.

13. (original) The method of inhibiting allergens according to

claim 11, wherein the aromatic hydroxy compound is obtained by polymerizing or copolymerizing a monomer having at least one of substituent groups represented by the general formulas (1) to (6):



wherein R is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group, and at least one R is a hydroxyl group, and n is an integer of 0 to 5.

14. (withdrawn) A method of inhibiting allergens which comprises supplying an aqueous solution containing aluminum sulfate and at least one sulfate selected from the group consisting of sodium sulfate, potassium sulfate, ammonium sulfate and thallium sulfate, in an object where allergens exist to inhibit the allergens.

15. (withdrawn) Allergen-inhibiting fibers comprising an allergen inhibitor contained in fibers.

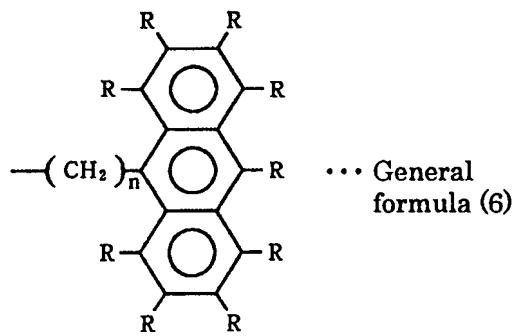
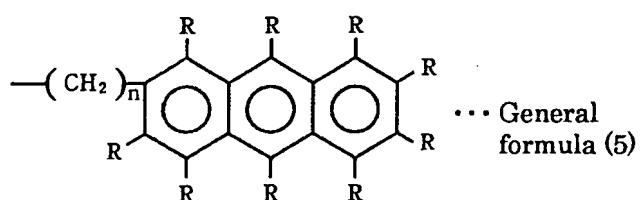
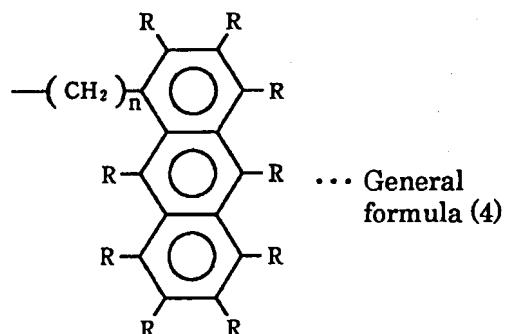
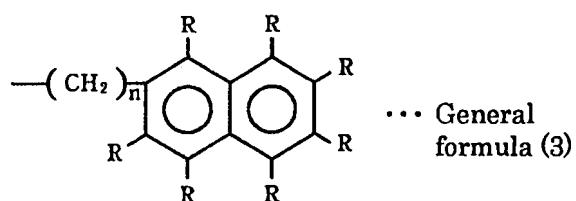
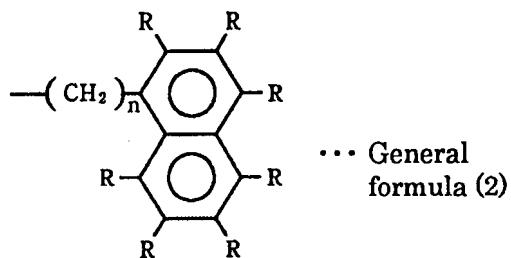
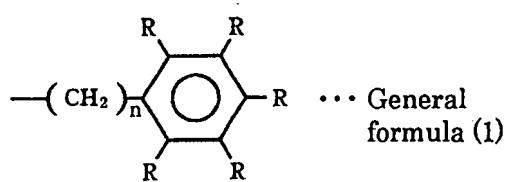
16. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to claim 15, wherein the allergen inhibitor is chemically bound to fibers.

17. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to claim 15, wherein the allergen inhibitor is chemically bound to fibers by graft reaction.

18. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to claim 15, wherein the allergen inhibitor is physically fixed or mixed in fibers.

19. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to claim 15, wherein the allergen inhibitor is an aromatic hydroxy compound.

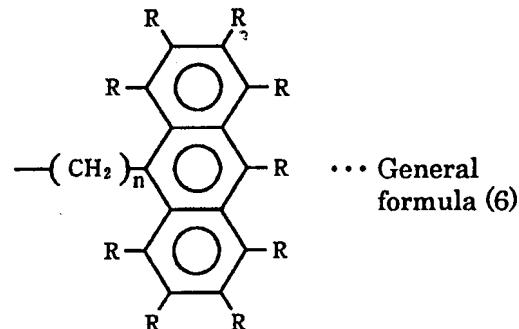
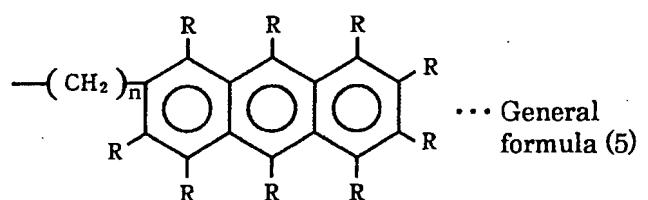
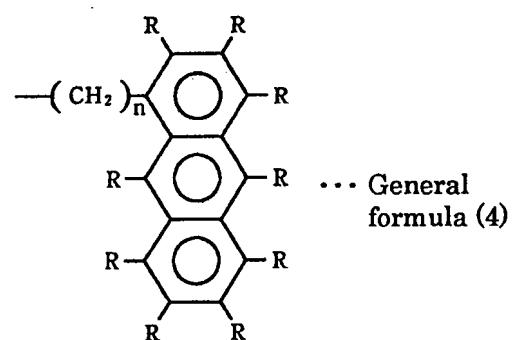
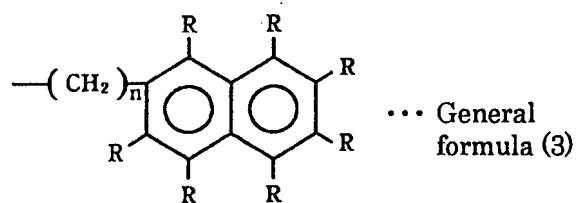
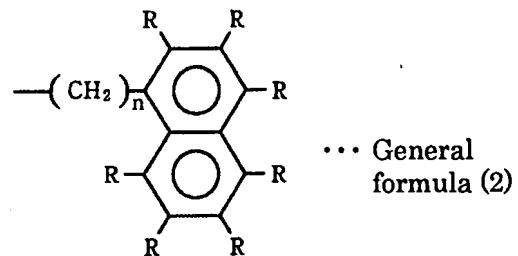
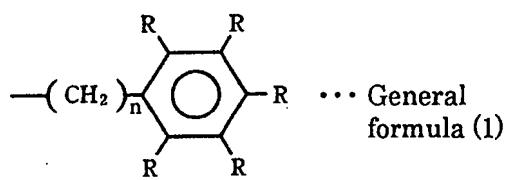
20. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to claim 19, wherein the aromatic hydroxy compound is a compound having, in a linear polymer, at least one of substituent groups represented by the general formulas (1) to (6):



wherein R is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group, and at least one R is a hydroxyl group, and n is an integer of 0 to 5.

21. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to claim 20, wherein only one of the substituent groups R is a hydroxyl group, and all the other substituent groups R are hydrogen atoms.

22. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to claim 19, wherein the aromatic hydroxy compound is obtained by polymerizing or copolymerizing a monomer having at least one of substituent groups represented by the general formulas (1) to (6):



wherein R is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group, and at least one R is a hydroxyl group, and n is an integer of 0 to 5.

23. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to claim 22, wherein only one of the substituent groups R is a hydroxyl group, and all the other substituent groups R are hydrogen

atoms.

24. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to claim 19, wherein the aromatic hydroxy compound is an aromatic heterocyclic hydroxy compound.

25. (withdrawn) Allergen-inhibiting fibers which exhibit an allergen-inhibiting effect in an atmosphere of an absolute humidity of not higher than 50 g/m³.

26. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to claim 25, which comprises an allergen inhibitor and fibers capable of forming a reaction field capable of causing interaction with allergens by gathering water molecules in the air.

27. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to claim 26, wherein the fibers contain a hygroscopic compound.

28. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to claim 26, wherein the fibers are hygroscopic fibers.

29. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to

claim 26, wherein the surface of the fibers has a pH value of 6 or more.

30. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to claim 26, wherein the surface of the fibers contains an alkali metal oxide or alkaline earth metal oxide.

31. (withdrawn) The allergen-inhibiting fibers according to claim 26, wherein the surface of the fibers contains an alkali metal hydroxide or alkaline earth metal hydroxide.

32. (withdrawn) An allergen-inhibiting sheet comprising an allergen inhibitor comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of an aromatic hydroxy compound, an alkali metal carbonate, alum, lauryl benzene sulfonate, lauryl sulfate, polyoxyethylene lauryl ether sulfate, and a divalent or more sulfate having either or both of a polyoxyethylene chain and a polyethylene chain in the molecule thereof contained in a base sheet.

33. (withdrawn) An allergen-inhibiting sheet comprising an allergen inhibitor comprising a phosphate and either or both of

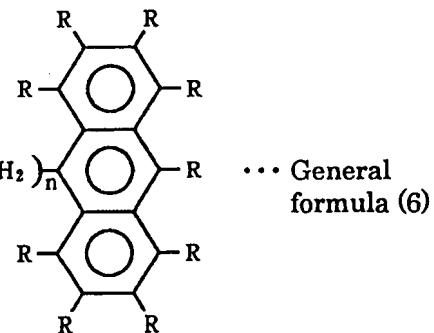
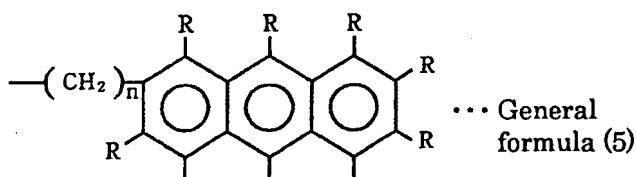
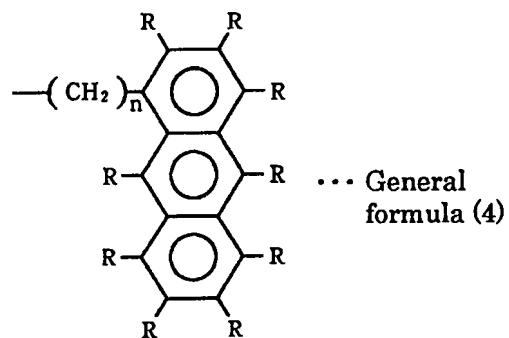
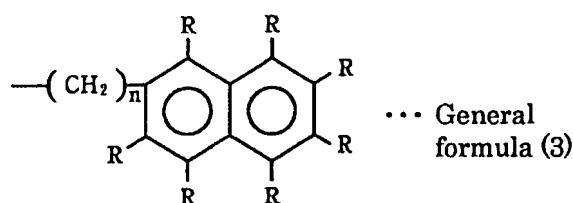
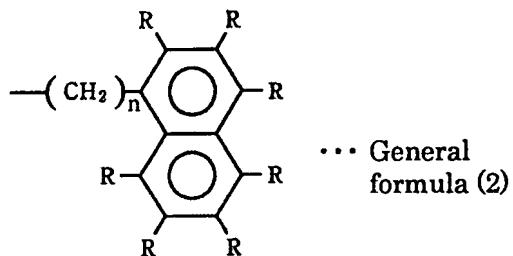
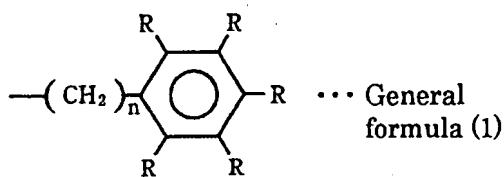
zinc sulfate and lead acetate contained in a base sheet.

34. (withdrawn) An allergen-inhibiting sheet comprising an allergen inhibitor comprising an aqueous solution containing aluminum sulfate and at least one sulfate selected from the group consisting of sodium sulfate, potassium sulfate, ammonium sulfate and thallium sulfate contained in a base sheet.

35. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting allergens which comprises supplying at least one compound selected from the group consisting of an aromatic hydroxy compound, an alkali metal carbonate, alum, lauryl benzene sulfonate, lauryl sulfate, polyoxyethylene lauryl ether sulfate, and a divalent or more sulfate having either or both of a polyoxyethylene chain and a polyethylene chain in the molecule thereof, in an object where ~~allergens are to be inhibited~~ the reactivity of allergens to specific antibodies is to be inhibited by denaturing or adsorbing allergens.

36. (previously presented) The method of inhibiting allergens according to claim 35, wherein the aromatic hydroxy compound is a compound having, in a linear polymer, at least one of substituent

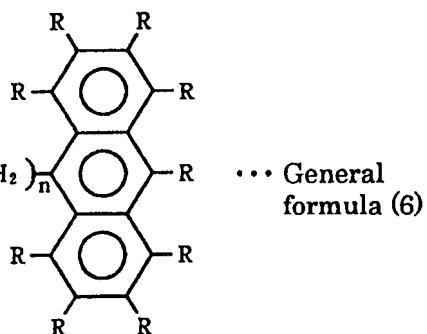
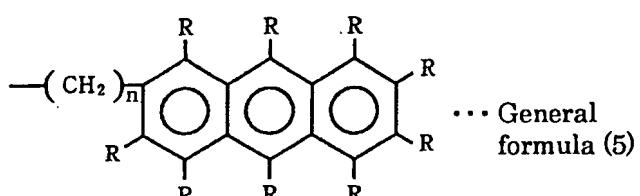
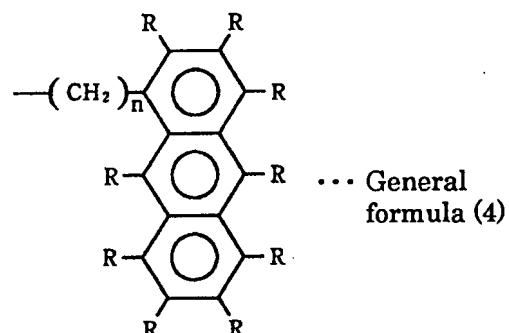
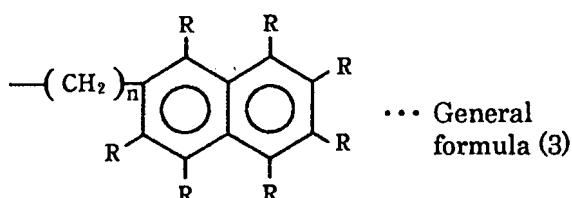
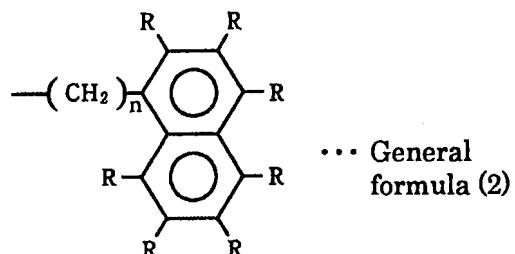
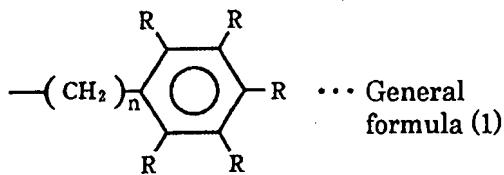
groups represented by the general formulas (1) to (6):



wherein R is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group, and at least one R is a hydroxyl group, and n is an integer of 0 to 5.

37. (previously presented) The method of inhibiting allergens according to claim 35, wherein the aromatic hydroxy compound is

obtained by polymerizing or copolymerizing a monomer having at least one of substituent groups represented by the general formulas (1) to (6):



wherein R is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group, and at least one R is a hydroxyl group, and n is an integer of 0 to 5.